

In Memoriam **Professor David Williams II**

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Introduction



This issue of the *Ohio State Law Journal* is dedicated to David Williams II, former professor at The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law and celebrated university administrator, who died on February 8, 2019. He was 71.

Williams was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan, where he worked as a middle school teacher and coach in Detroit public schools from 1970 to 1980. He earned a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Detroit Law School in 1982 and a master's degree in taxation from New York University Law School in 1984.

An expert on tax law, law and education, and sports law, Williams joined Moritz as an Assistant Professor of Law in 1986 and achieved the rank of Professor in 1995. In addition to directing the University of Oxford—Ohio State Summer Law Program, he also served as Vice Provost for Minority Affairs and as Vice President for Student Affairs at Ohio State.

Williams was appointed Vice Chancellor, General Counsel, and Secretary of Vanderbilt University in 2000, and he also joined the faculty of the law school. He had a groundbreaking career at Vanderbilt, which spanned nearly two decades. He was named Vice Chancellor for Athletics and University Affairs as well as Athletics Director in 2012, becoming the first African American Vice Chancellor at Vanderbilt and the first African American Athletic

Director in the Southeastern Conference. Vanderbilt won four national championships under his tenure and celebrated many other athletic successes.

He also spearheaded a number of initiatives for student-athletes at Vanderbilt: he began a lauded summer internship program, guided major renovations of Vanderbilt's athletic facilities, and was instrumental in launching the University's Sports and Society Initiative. He returned to Vanderbilt University Law School in January 2019, where he instituted a Sports, Law and Society Program.

The Student Recreation Center at Vanderbilt is being named in honor of Williams. Williams is survived by his wife, Gail; four children, Erika, David III, Samantha, and Nicholas; six grandchildren; and one great-grandson. Williams will be interred at Woodlawn Cemetery in Detroit, Michigan.